

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

20

MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

REGULAR MEETING

May 12, 2021

Chairman Robert Toman called the May 12th regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Robert Toman - present, Vice Chairman William Spellman - present, Trustee Fredrick Houston – present. Also, present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Fire Chief Ted Smith and ZBA Chairperson James Tripp. Absent was the Zoning Inspector, Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting, which was held April 14, 2021, for approval. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2021-38:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that April's receipts were \$48,190 and expenditures were \$46,481. Receipts included \$21,556 in final payments on 1st half property taxes and \$6,418 in quarterly cable franchise fees. Expenditures included the \$9,928 semi-annual payment to the Mahoning County Health Dept and \$2,166 to the County for Tax Collection services. The total gross fund balance as of April 30, 2021, was \$655,868. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval of \$1,681.01 from D&T PM & Truck Repair for Fire Engine service, \$293.87 for Fire Extinguisher inspections/repairs, \$1,100.51 to Atty Finamore for Zoning Legal work and \$256.00 to the Mah. County Twp. Association for annual dues. **Motion 2021-39:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$3,331.39 in expenditures presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then presented to the Board an overview of the 2021 1st half property tax collections. Total collections were \$162,958 including \$3,479 in delinquent collections. Mr. DeCenso thought that the County's 1st half projection of \$121,925 was low due to 2020 property valuation changes in the Township. He will be preparing a request to have the County Budget Commission amend the Township's 2021 Certificate of Resources to reflect the increased collections. Mr. DeCenso then distributed a review of Fire and EMS revenue/expenditures for the first four months of 2021 vs 2020. The combined fund balances have increased in 2021 by \$13,167 vs a \$10,715 increase through the first four months in 2020. EMS collections are over \$14,000 ahead of the same period in 2020. Mr. DeCenso then advised the Board that he was reviewing an option to add PayPal or any similar payment service to the Township, as that would allow residents to pay any Zoning fees or Hall rentals on-line. He will report back to the Board next month.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney advised the Board that there were no burials in Ellsworth in April. He reported that he did receive another quote for tree trimming in the cemetery of \$900, including hauling away the branches. This should not be done until late fall. Mr. Stroney described a demo performed by Seal Master on the Mastic Sealing process. He indicated that he was impressed with the process and the performance of the machine. He then reported that the flags were ready for placement in the town center. He discussed with the Board the upcoming Township clean up days. He has arranged for the roll-off containers and has installed a temporary fence back by the pond to create a drop-off zone. He has also arranged with MCTCC to paint some banners. The new Fire Hall windows should be installed in eight to ten weeks. The Board discussed the timing to begin the crack sealing. Mr. Stroney will schedule the equipment rental but will need additional help to complete the process in a timely manner.

ZONING REPORT: Trustee Spellman read the zoning report prepared by Mr. Wayne Sarna. Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote three permits since last meeting: for a privacy fence at a home on S. Duck Creek Rd; a storage building on Berlin Station Rd. and a deck to be added to a home on Berlin Station Rd. He received a variance request for an accessory building to be built on Diehl Rd, 15 feet in front of the residence and 8 feet from the property boundary. The fee collected for the request is \$400 and will be scheduled by the ZBA. He reported on a zone change request to parcel 23-050-S-023.00-0 located on W. Akron Canfield Rd from Agriculture to Business. The fee collected was \$350.00. He reported that the James property on Western Reserve Rd has been re-platted with frontage of two lots to Western Reserve Rd. His report also contained references to other properties in the Township that he has addressed due to excessive debris and inoperable cars.

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Regular Trustee Meeting May 12, 2021, Continued

Chairman Toman then recognized Mr. Jim Tripp, chairperson of the ZBA who provided an update to the ZBA hearing held on May 10th to review the variance request for the accessory building on Diehl Rd. Mr. Tripp advised the Board that the variance was granted as appropriate precautions for water drainage has been taken and that there were no objections from any neighbors.

Chairman then recognized Mrs. Dee Tripp, secretary of the Zoning Commission who explained the zoning change request of the properties on W. Akron Canfield Rd. The request to change the remaining parcels from Agricultural to Business would provide the entire NW corner of Routes 45 and 224 as Business zoned. The Mahoning County Planning Commission will review this on May 28th and if approved, will be reviewed at the June 8th Zoning Commission meeting. Mrs. Tripp felt that the County will approve the request as the County usually relies on the Township's zoning plan, which shows the entire corner as appropriate for permitted businesses. If approved at the next Township Zoning Commission meeting, the Trustees will need to also vote on the matter.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 30 calls in April, including 24 EMS calls with thirteen transports of which the Township transported eleven. The Chief then discussed his review of maintenance and repairs on the Fire vehicles. E400 needs a ball joint repair estimated at \$400 and L400 needs a fan belt replaced, estimated at \$200. The Chief then reported on some of the Fire drills held last month. Chief Smith then discussed sending two firefighters (Kevin Felger and Isabel Schors) who would like to attend a combined Firefighter I and II classes at Stark State. This class opportunity combines the FF I and II classes. The cost is \$2,200.00 per person. Also, Abigail Schors would like to obtain her 36-Hour Firefighter card. That cost is \$800.00 at MCCTC. The Chief then presented an application from Ashley Gruszecki to join the Department. She holds a Firefighter I classification and is currently attending EMT school at MCCTC but has no department experience. The Board then discussed with the Chief, the current Agreement that must be signed by each person who has their education paid by the Township. The Chief discussed the work requirements contained in the Agreements. **Motion 2021-40:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve \$5,800.00 for the requested vehicle maintenance and education expenses. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then reviewed the last six months of the EMS on-call program and requested that the Board continue the program. The Fiscal Officer commented that in 2020, the on-call program was able to be fully funded from 2020 CARES Act grants. Although the 2021 American Recovery Act does not provide any funding to Townships, there is enough monies currently available to maintain the program through 2021. **Motion 2021-41:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve Ashley Gruszecki as a probationary Firefighter. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Toman recognized Fred Shrock, from VFW Post #9571 who gave an update on the Memorial Day activities planned for Ellsworth Cemetery. There are 161 veteran graves in the Township. A parade will begin at 11:00 am and make its way from the VFW post to the cemetery where a small program will be held.

The Board discussed the upcoming Township Clean-up project. The program will last from May 22nd through June 26th. Flyers will be mailed out and arrangements were made to have students at MCCTC paint some banners. The Board thanked Allison Brothers and Diver Steel City for their assistance with the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman discussed Governor DeWine's recent announcement that the COVID-19 restrictions may be lifted in June. He would like to pursue some type of Township celebration in the fall for the residents. He also gave an update on the proposed County ¼ percent sales tax to fund county and township roads.

Trustee Houston gave his support to a Township celebration and also suggested re-instituting the recognition event that was held for volunteers and others who have given their support to the Township over the last few years.

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Regular Trustee Meeting May 12, 2021, Continued

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Toman discussed adding additional part-time maintenance personnel through Callos Resources.

Motion 2021-42: Trustee Houston made a motion to approve Kevin Johnson as a part-time maintenance worker through Callos Resources. Mr. Johnson is to be paid \$10.00 per hour. The fee to the Township will include the associated taxes and fees passed through by Callos. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

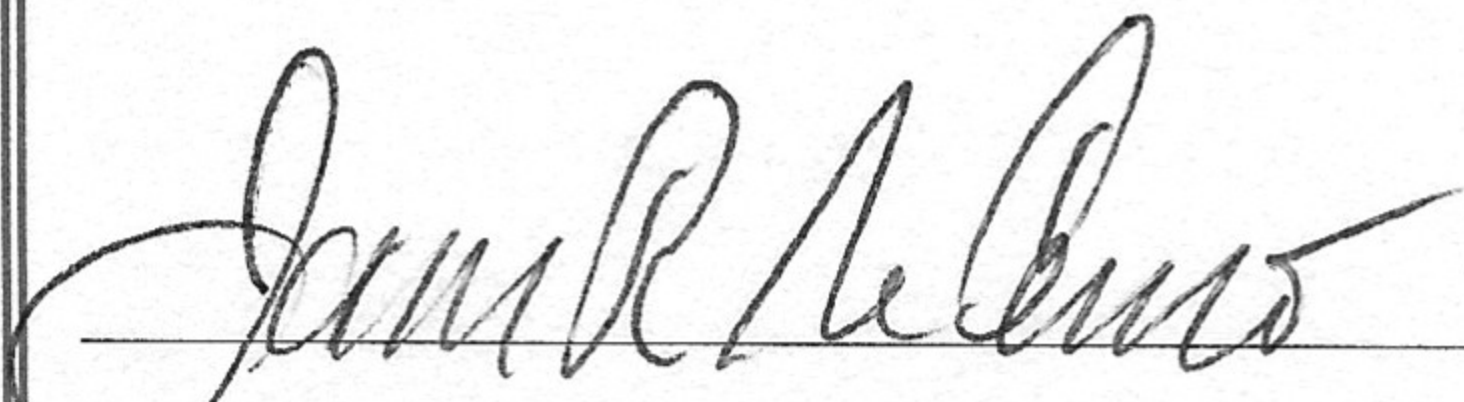
The next meeting will be held June 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall.

Motion 2021-43: At 8:35 pm, Trustee Spellman made a motion pursuant to 122.22(g)(2) to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussing personnel work appraisals. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

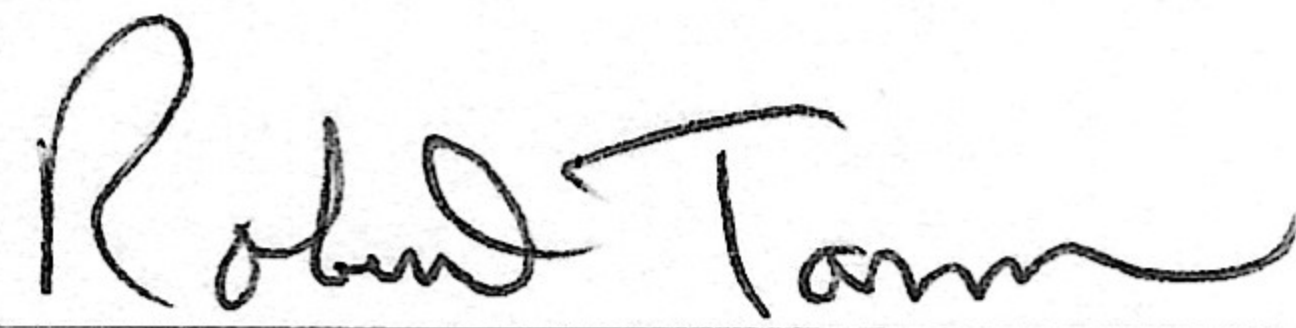
Motion 2021-44: At 9:15 pm, Trustee Spellman made a motion to return to Regular Session. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board invited the Fiscal Officer, Matt Stroney and Chief Ted Smith to attend the executive session.

Motion 2021-45: Trustee Houston made a motion to continue to fund the Firefighter/EMS on-call program through the end of 2021, subject to termination at any time. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

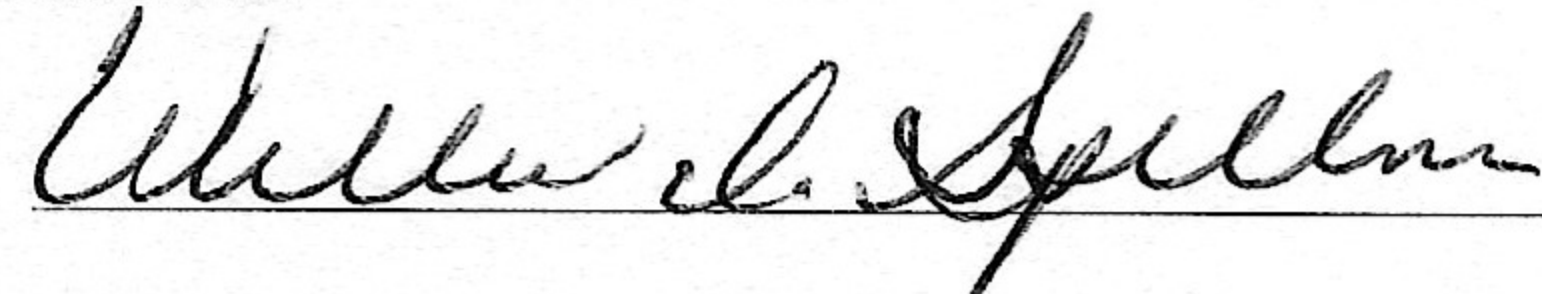
At 9:18 pm, with no further business to discuss, Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



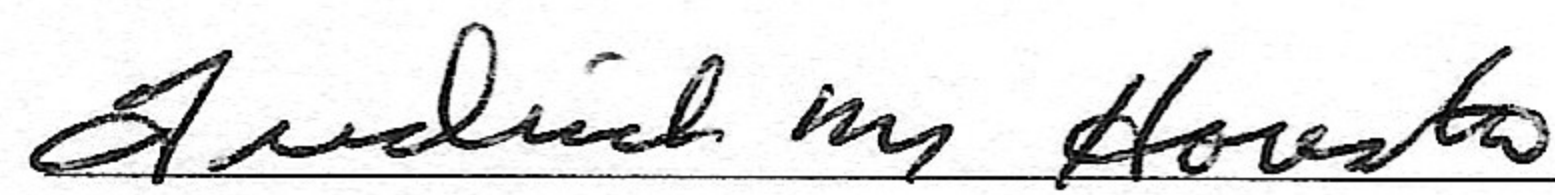
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee